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**APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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**Title:               OCULAR SOLUTIONS**

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**SPECIFICATION**

## **OCULAR SOLUTIONS**

### **Field of the Invention**

The invention is directed to ocular solutions containing macrolide antibiotics to provide anti-inflammatory and other beneficial effects.

### **Background**

5               The eye is naturally bathed internally and externally by ocular fluids. The external portion of the eye is lubricated by lacrimal fluids (tears). The internal portion of the eye has two fluid-containing chambers: the anterior chamber contains the aqueous humor or aqueous, and the posterior chamber contain the vitreous humor or vitreous.

10              Various conditions require the need to introduce fluids into or on the surface of the eye to replace or replenish naturally occurring fluids. The loss of naturally occurring ocular fluids may be due to normal aging, pathological conditions, surgical intervention, etc. For example, during ocular

surgery, the vitreous is frequently removed and must thereafter be replaced. Commercially available irrigating solutions are often used to replace some or all of the vitreous, such as irrigating solutions infused to replace the vitreous removed during vitrectomy and thereby to maintain the shape of the globe.

- 5 The composition and other properties of these solutions may affect the surgical outcome for the patient, for example, a solution may affect the clarity of the cornea and lens, which may result in decreased visual acuity. Additionally, swelling of the cornea during vitrectomy may be influenced by components of the irrigating solution. Other conditions such as dry eye
- 10 disease result in decreased external lubrication, and topical solutions such as eye drops are often used to provide relief. Wash solutions are used topically to remove foreign material from the external surface of the eye and invasively to clear the cornea and other structures during surgery.

- Ocular solutions, for introduction into the eye and/or topical
- 15 application, with improved properties are desirable. The invention describes such compositions and method of using the compositions.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

- A substitute for an intraocular irrigating, wash, or volume replacement solution is disclosed. The solution contains a concentration in
- 20 the range from about 1 ng/ml to about 200  $\mu$ g/ml of a macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid. This provides beneficial properties, such as reducing inflammation at a surgical site (anti-inflammatory effect), inhibiting cell migration and cell proliferation (anti-proliferative and anti-migratory effects), inhibiting the growth of new blood vessels at the site of an ocular
- 25 tumor (anti-angiogenic effect), reducing the growth of bacteria, fungi, etc.

(anti-microbial and anti-fungal effects). Its anti-inflammatory effect desirably occurs without an increase in intraocular pressure, which may occur when steroids are administered to control ocular inflammation. Such a composition may be used in patients undergoing ocular surgery such as cataract surgery, retinal repair, etc.

The macrolide and/or mycophenolic acid can be added to a commercially available ocular solution, or can be formulated with an ocular solution. The macrolide antibiotic can be tacrolimus, cyclosporine, sirolimus, everolimus, ascomycin, erythromycin, azithromycin, clarithromycin, clindamycin, lincomycin, dirithromycin, josamycin, spiramycin, diacetyl-  
midcamycin, tylosin, roxithromycin, ABT-773, telithromycin, leucomycins, and lincosamide. It can be formulated in an inert matrix, a capsule, a liposome, etc. It can be inserted, injected, or implanted within a specific site of the eye (e.g., within the lens capsule), or applied generally to clear or wash a surgical field.

In one embodiment, the inventive ocular composition is administered to a patient undergoing cataract surgery. The solution, containing a concentration in the range from about 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to about 200  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of a macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid is introduced within the capsule of the lens after the diseased lens has been removed and before the replacement lens is inserted. Macrospheres or macrocapsules of the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid can be implanted within the capsule in an alternate embodiment. This can be used to reduce opacification of the posterior capsule, which is a common problem following cataract surgery.

An implantable lens which retains at least one of a macrolide antibiotic or mycophenolic acid is also disclosed. This system provides a replacement lens ready for surgical implantation in a patient undergoing cataract surgery, with the lens containing a concentration of a macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid. When the lens is implanted within the lens capsule of a patient's eye, the antibiotic or mycophenolic acid is then released to provide therapeutic effects to the capsule (e.g., anti-cell proliferative effects, anti-inflammatory effects, etc).

These and other advantages of the invention will be apparent in light of the following figures and detailed description.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

An ocular solution containing one or more macrolide antibiotics and/or mycophenolic acid is disclosed. The ocular solution may be any physiologically compatible ocular solution. It may be used externally (e.g. topical administration) or internally (e.g. invasive administration.)

Ocular solutions are frequently administered to a patient following ocular surgery; macrolide antibiotics in these solutions desirably provide anti-inflammatory effects which aid in post-surgical recovery. In addition, macrolide antibiotics provide these anti-inflammatory effects without an increase in intraocular pressure that often accompanies administration of steroids to post-surgical patients to control inflammation.

Macrolide antibiotics also reduce cell proliferation and cell migration. This may promote the healing process, and may also provide an anti-angiogenesis effect to retard the proliferation and/or growth of new vessels. As one example, controlling the growth of new blood vessels is a

way to control proliferation of tumor cells; macrolide antibiotics in an ocular solution may be helpful in controlling ocular neoplasms or tumors. As another example, the solutions may be used to in patients having diseases characterized by abnormal angiogenesis, such as certain types of cancers, diabetic retinopathy, and sickle cell retinopathy, in which an anti-angiogenesis effect is desirable. Macrolide antibiotics also provide antimicrobial and antifungal properties to ocular solutions.

It will be appreciated that the inventive composition need not be in the physical form of a true solution, but instead may be a suspension, an emulsion, a gel, etc. It may also encompass the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid in the form of microspheres, microvesicles, microcapsules, and/or liposomes. In addition, ocular solutions for topical application may take the form of any of the above, as well as an ointment, a cream, a lotion, etc. Thus, the term solution is used for convenience but encompasses other physical states. It will also be appreciated that the macrolide antibiotics may be included in the formulation for preparing an ocular solution, or may be added in dry form or in concentrated form to an already prepared ocular solution.

The ocular solution may be one that is used as an irrigating solution and/or as a volume replacement solution during ocular surgery. It is thus a substitute for an ocular fluid, such as the vitreous, and/or a substitute for a commercially available irrigating solution that may be used during ocular surgery. It may also be one that is used topically, and thus encompasses eye drops, eye wash solutions, and contact lens solutions. It may be used in over the counter (OTC) ocular solutions for topical application,

for example, in ocular solutions such as artificial tears or lubricants. One commercially available ophthalmic lubricant is Viva-Drops®, available from Vision Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Mitchell SD). The invention includes but is not limited to this particular embodiment.

5                   In one embodiment, an ocular solution contains at least one macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid and is used for intraocular administration. Intraocular administration indicates an invasive route of administration, compared to a topical route of administration. In this embodiment, the ocular solution containing the macrolide antibiotic(s) may be  
10 an irrigating solution, a volume replacement solution, and/or a wash solution.

                  The inventive composition may be used in physiologic ophthalmic irrigating solutions. One example is Balanced Salt Solution (BSS®, available from Alcon Laboratories, Randburg, South Africa), containing per ml 0.64% sodium chloride, 0.075% potassium chloride, 0.048%  
15 calcium chloride, 0.03% magnesium chloride, 0.39% sodium acetate, and 0.17% sodium citrate dihydrate, as well as sodium hydroxide and/or hydrochloric acid to adjust pH, and water for injection. Another example is Ocular Irrigation Solution® (Allergan, Irvine CA). Another example is lactated Ringer's solution. Another example is a normal saline solution. Another  
20 example is normal saline adjusted to pH 7.4 with sodium bicarbonate.

                  The inventive composition may also be used in ophthalmic volume replacement solutions. For example, it may be introduced into the posterior chamber of the eye to replace the vitreous that is removed during the repair of retinal disorders (vitrectomy).

The inventive composition may also be introduced into the lens capsule during cataract surgery. A cloudy and discolored lens, referred to as a cataract, causes decreased vision and treatment requires that the lens be surgically removed. Cataract surgery usually involves phacoemulsification of the diseased lens inside the capsule, aspiration of the emulsified material, irrigation, and insertion of a replacement intraocular lens (IOL) within the capsule.

Following cataract surgery, there is frequently opacification of the posterior capsule which also diminishes visual acuity. Surgical techniques to minimize posterior capsule opacification have variable success, and patients undergoing cataract surgery may require an additional procedure to attend to the capsular opacification that subsequently occurs.

A complication for IOL implantation is post-operative opacification. This occurs as a result of lens epithelial cells (LEC) which migrate around the posterior capsule, and may be due to lack of maximum contact between the IOL optic and the posterior capsule. In children treated for pediatric cataracts, leaving the posterior capsule intact after IOL implantation predisposes them to secondary cataract formation and severe visual axis opacification (VAO). This usually requires surgery to prevent VAO and an anterior vitrectomy to maintain a clear visual axis during pediatric IOL surgery. Thus, reduction in the extent of cell migration and/or cell proliferation following cataract surgery is desirable.

In this embodiment of the invention, an irrigating or volume replacement solution containing at least one macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid is administered to the capsule with or before inserting the



replacement lens. Without being bound by any theory, the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid may reduce posterior capsular opacification and visual axis opacification by its inhibitory effect on ocular cell proliferation and cell migration.

5                   The macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid can also be provided on a lens that will be implanted within a patient's eye. These lenses include any IOL used to replace a patient's diseased lens following cataract surgery, including but not limited to those manufactured by Bausch and Lomb (Rochester NY), Alcon (Fort Worth TX), Allergan (Irvine CA), and Advanced  
10 Medical Optics (Santa Ana CA). The system provides a therapeutic replacement lens ready for surgical implantation in a patient. When the lens is implanted within the lens capsule, the antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid provides therapeutic effects (e.g., anti-cell proliferative effects, anti-inflammatory effects, etc) to the eye.

15                   A concentration of the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid within the capsule is provided to achieve the previously described therapeutic effect. In one embodiment, the concentration ranges from about 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to about 2000  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . In another embodiment, the concentration ranges from about 200  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to about 2000  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . In another embodiment,  
20 the concentration ranges from about 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to about 200  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .

                  The IOL may be made of hydrophobic or hydrophilic material. The type of material determines whether the IOL cannot fold, is rigid and requires a large incision to insert, or is flexible to allow the lens to be rolled, compressed, or folded for insertion through a smaller incision. The most  
25 common materials used in IOL are various chemical modifications of silicon,

hydrophobic acrylates, hydrophobic acrylates, and hydrogels which contain water to impart gel-like characteristic to the material. Each of these can be formulated or treated to contain a solution containing a macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid.

5                    In one embodiment, the implantable IOL is packaged in an ophthalmically acceptable medium which contains the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid. For example, a porous hydrogel lens (e.g., Hydroview®, Bausch & Lomb Surgical, Rochester NY) retains the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid within the pores. Upon  
10 insertion/implantation of the lens into the lens capsule, the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid is released into the capsule. A slow-release system provides extended therapy over the post-surgical recovery period as the actives are slowly released through the porous elements.

                    In another embodiment, the implantable lens is coated to  
15 provide the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid. This embodiment may be used with a non-hydrogel hydrophilic lens, a hydrophobic lens, a lens made from an acrylic material (e.g., AcrySof®; Alcon, Fort Worth TX; Sensar®; Advanced Medical Optics, Santa Ana CA), a silicone lens (e.g., CeeOn®, Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, Pickering OH), etc. Coating and/or  
20 incorporation procedures that may be used are known to one skilled in the art; for example, as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,238,799; 6,179,817; 6,306,422; and 6,258,856, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. The macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid may be added to the storage solution during packaging of the IOL, or may be  
25 incorporated into the manufacture of the IOL. For example, the macrolide

antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid may be incorporated into either or both the hydration fluid in the formation of a hydrophilic or hydrogel IOL, or in the storage solution. In another example, the macrolide antibiotic and/or mycophenolic acid may be in an acceptable encapsulated form in a hydrogel IOL for extended long term release.

The inventive composition may also be used as an ocular wash solution, for example, to clear the surgical field during intraocular surgery.

In each of the above embodiments, any macrolide antibiotic alone or in combination may be used. Embodiments of the invention include various ocular-compatible concentrations of the macrolide antibiotic(s) and/or mycophenolic acid sufficient to provide an anti-inflammatory, anti-proliferative, anti-cell migration, anti-fungal, etc. effect. Concentrations of the macrolide antibiotic may depend upon the use for the composition, as is known to one skilled in the art. Thus, the invention is not limited to a specific concentration of macrolide antibiotic. In general, the macrolide antibiotic is present in the ocular solution at concentrations ranging from about 1 ng/ml to about 200  $\mu$ g/ml. In one embodiment, the macrolide antibiotic is present in the ocular solution at a concentration of about 1  $\mu$ g/ml. For use to reduce capsular opacification following cataract surgery, concentrations ranging from about 1  $\mu$ g/ml to about 200  $\mu$ g/ml, or from about 20  $\mu$ g/ml to about 200  $\mu$ g/ml, may be used. The properties of the macrolide- and/or mycophenolic acid-containing ocular solution are compatible with ocular tissues.

The macrolide antibiotic may be formulated with a viscoelastic substance such as hyaluronic acid, or may be contained in microspheres, macrospheres, microvesicles, macrovesicles, microcapsules, macrocapsules,

liposomes, etc., as described in co-pending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/631,143 which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. This embodiment may be used with solutions administered to prevent capsular opacification following cataract surgery, as previously described.

5                   Liposomes may be prepared from dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine (DPPC), for example, from egg phosphatidylcholine (PC), a lipid with a low heat of transition. Liposomes are made using standard procedures as known to one skilled in the art. The macrolide antibiotic(s), in amounts ranging from nanogram to microgram quantities, is added to a  
10   solution of egg PC, and the lipophilic drug binds to the liposome.

                  A time-release drug delivery system may be administered intraocularly to result in sustained release of the macrolide antibiotic(s) over a period of time. The formulation may be in the form of a vehicle, such as a micro- or macro-capsule or matrix of biocompatible polymers such as  
15   polycaprolactone, poly(glycolic) acid, poly(lactic) acid, polyanhydride, or lipids that may be formulated as microspheres or liposomes. A macroscopic formulation may be administered through a needle, or may be implanted by suturing within the eye, for example, within the lens capsule. As an illustrative example, sirolimus may be mixed with polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), the mixture  
20   then dried and coated with ethylene vinyl acetate, then cooled again with PVA. In a formulation for intraocular administration, the liposome capsule degrades due to cellular digestion providing a slow release drug delivery system, allowing the patient a constant exposure to the drug over time.

                  Delayed or extended release properties may be provided  
25   through various formulations of the vehicle (coated or uncoated microsphere,

coated or uncoated capsule, lipid or polymer components, unilamellar or multilamellar structure, and combinations of the above, etc.). Other variables may include the patient's pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic parameters (e.g., body mass, gender, plasma clearance rate, hepatic function, etc.). The

5 formulation and loading of microspheres, microcapsules, liposomes, etc. and their ocular implantation are standard techniques known by one skilled in the art, for example, the use a ganciclovir sustained-release implant to treat cytomegalovirus retinitis, disclosed in Vitreoretinal Surgical Techniques, Peyman et al., Eds. (Martin Dunitz, London 2001, chapter 45); Handbook of

10 Pharmaceutical Controlled Release Technology, Wise, Ed. (Marcel Dekker, New York 2000), the relevant sections of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

Examples of macrolide antibiotics that may be used for intraocular administration include, but are not limited to, tacrolimus,

15 Cyclosporin A, sirolimus, ascomycin, and everolimus. Tacrolimus (Prograf®, Fujisawa Healthcare, Deerfield, IL; FK-506), a macrolide immunosuppressant produced by *Streptomyces tsukubaensis*, is a tricyclo hydrophobic compound that is practically insoluble in water, but is freely soluble in ethanol and is very soluble in methanol and chloroform. It is available under prescription as either

20 capsules for oral administration or as a sterile solution for intravenous administration. The solution contains the equivalent of 5 mg anhydrous tacrolimus in 1 ml of polyoxyl 60 hydrogenated castor oil (HCO-60), 200 mg, and dehydrated alcohol (USP, 80.0%<sup>v/v</sup>), and must be diluted with a solution of 0.9% NaCl or 5% dextrose before use.

Tacrolimus has been used for topical administration to treat a variety of dermatoses. Topical administration of tacrolimus at doses ranging from 0.03%-0.3% resulted in significant clinical improvement in atopic dermatitis after 2-3 weeks treatment, and tacrolimus treatment of other dermatologic diseases shows promise. Tacrolimus, like cyclosporine, blocks the signal transduction pathway needed to induce interleukin-2 gene expression and thereby activate T lymphocytes. In addition to suppressing T cell activation, tacrolimus inhibits anti-IgE-triggered histamine release and inhibits prostaglandin D2 synthesis in human skin mast cells. While oral administration produces limiting adverse effects (systemic immunosuppression, infection, neural toxicity, nephrotoxicity, and hypertension), topical administration for treatment of dermatoses at concentrations up to 0.3% showed no significant difference in effects between treated and control groups. In addition, tacrolimus is well tolerated locally and only occasionally causes mild irritation.

The use of tacrolimus as a specific medicament for treatment of ocular disease has been disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,489,335 and co-pending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/247,220, each of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. For example, tacrolimus may be contained in an aqueous-based cream excipient for topical application, or it may be injected intraocularly, or it may be administered surgically as an ocular implant.

Cyclosporin A (cyclosporine, topical formulation Arrestase®, Allergan Inc.) is a cyclic peptide produced by *Trichoderma polysporum*. It is available commercially, for example, from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). It is

an immunosuppressant and acts in a particular subset of T lymphocytes, the helper T cells. Cyclosporin A exerts an immunosuppressant effect by inhibiting production of the cytokine interleukin 2. Each of Cyclosporin A and tacrolimus, another immunosuppressant, produce significant renal and hepatic toxicity when each is administered systemically; because of this toxicity, they are not administered together.

Cyclosporin A has been administered to treat ocular conditions such as glaucoma, corticosteroid-induced ocular hypertension, allograft rejection, infections, and ocular surface disease. Its use has been reported for the treatment of uveitis (inflammation of the uvea) by topical, intravitreal or systemic administration with doses of 0.05%, 0.1%, and 0.5%. Cyclosporin A has good penetration into the cornea but not into the anterior chamber, and does not increase intraocular pressure or cause cataracts. Its known toxicity had previously limited its use for other ocular diseases.

The use of Cyclosporin A as a specific medicament for treatment of ocular disease with reduced toxicity has been described in co-pending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/289,772, which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Sirolimus, also known as rapamycin, RAPA, and Rapamune®, is a triene macrolide antibiotic derived from *Streptomyces hydroscopicus* and originally developed as an antifungal agent. Subsequently, it has shown anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, and immunosuppressive properties. Ascomycin, also known as pimecrolimus, Immunomycin, and FR-900520, is an ethyl analog of tacrolimus and has strong immunosuppressant properties. It inhibits Th1 and Th2 cytokines, and preferentially inhibits activation of mast

cells, and is used to treat contact dermatitis and other dermatological conditions. Sirolimus and ascomycin are commercially available, e.g., A.G. Scientific, Inc. (San Diego, CA).

Regarding its immunosuppressive potential, sirolimus has some  
5 synergetic effect with Cyclosporin A. It has been reported that sirolimus has a different mode of action compared to Cyclosporin A and tacrolimus. All three agents are immunosuppressants which affect the action of immune cell modulators (cytokines), but do not affect the immune cells themselves. However, while all three agents affect immune cell modulators, they do so  
10 differently: Cyclosporin A and tacrolimus prevent synthesis of cytokine messengers, specifically interleukin-2, while sirolimus acts on cytokine that has already been synthesized, preventing it from reaching immune cells.

Sirolimus inhibits inflammation by acting on both T-lymphocytes and dendritic cells. The latter are the first cells to recognize antigens.  
15 Sirolimus blocks the growth of dendritic cells and a number of other cells, such as tumors and endothelial cells, which are activated by the tumor cell releasing vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). VEGF is a central regulator of angiogenesis (formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing vessels) and vasculogenesis (development of embryonic vasculature through  
20 an influence on endothelial cell differentiation and organization). Diseases that are characterized by abnormal angiogenesis and vasculogenesis, such as some cancers and some ocular diseases, may show abnormal production of VEGF. Thus, control of VEGF function may be one means to control or treat these diseases. Sirolimus has also been used in the prevention of  
25 smooth muscle hyperplasia after coronary stent surgery. The use of sirolimus



and ascomycin as specific medicaments for treatment of ocular disease has been disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/631,143, which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Everolimus, also known as RAD-001, SCZ RAD, Certican™

5 (Novartis, Basel Switzerland), is an analog of sirolimus but is a new and distinct chemical entity. It is an oral immunosuppressant that inhibits growth factor-induced cell proliferation and thus reduces acute organ rejection and vasculopathy, the proliferation of smooth muscle cells in the innermost wall of grafts that restricts blood supply.

10 Mycophenolic acid (MPA) is the active compound formed following the administration of mycophenolate mofetil (MMF). The prodrug is the morpholinoethyl ester of mycophenolic acid. Mycophenolic acid is an antileukemic and immunosuppressant agent used in patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer and in transplant recipients.

15 The addition of these agents, either alone or in combination, to invasively administered ocular solutions according to the invention provides beneficial anti-inflammatory, anti-proliferative, anti-cell migration, antimicrobial, and antifungal properties.

It will be appreciated that the invention encompasses the use of  
20 macrolide antibiotics and/or mycophenolic acid, in addition to those previously described, in an ocular solution. These include, for example, the known antibiotics erythromycin and its derivatives such as azithromycin and clarithromycin, lincomycin, dirithromycin, josamycin, spiramycin, diacetyl-  
midecamycin, tylosin, and roxithromycin. The invention also includes new  
25 macrolide antibiotic scaffolds and derivatives in development, including but

not limited to the ketolides ABT-773 and telithromycin as described by  
Schonfeld and Kirst (Eds.) in *Macrolide Antibiotics*, Birkhauser, Basel  
Switzerland (2002); macrolides derived from leucomycins, as described in  
U.S. Patent Nos. 6,436,906; 6,440,942; and 6,462,026 assigned to Enanta  
5    Pharmaceuticals (Watertown MA); and lincosamides.

          In addition to the above described uses, the invention comprises  
ocular solutions for topical (non-invasive) ocular administration with  
everolimus, erythromycin, azithromycin, clarithromycin, lincomycin,  
dirithromycin, josamycin, spiramycin, diacetyl-midecamycin, tylosin,  
10    roxithromycin, and mycophenolic acid, as well as the previously described  
new macrolide antibiotic scaffolds and derivatives in development, including  
but not limited to the ketolides ABT-773 and telithromycin, macrolides derived  
from leucomycins, and lincosamides.

          The macrolide antibiotics are included with ocular solutions for  
15    any use. The macrolide antibiotic may be added together or separately as  
individual components in the preparation of an ocular solution. Alternatively, a  
solution of the macrolide antibiotic may be prepared and then added to the  
ocular solution. The solutions may be commercial irrigating solutions that  
contain other known components, such as various anions and cations, buffers  
20    to regulate pH, adenosine, calcium, glucose, bicarbonate, dextrose, dextran  
40 (a low molecular weight colloidal osmotic agent), gentamicin,  
dexamethasone, selenium, zinc, and gluconide. The macrolide antibiotic may  
be added to commercial ocular lubricating solutions, such as artificial tears.  
The macrolide antibiotic may be included with commercial ocular wash  
25    solutions. The macrolide antibiotic may be included with contact lens wash,

rinse, and wetting solutions. Any solution for ocular administration, either administration to the exterior surface of the eye or to one of the interior chambers of the eye, may contain the macrolide antibiotic.

The invention is also not limited to human use, and  
5 encompasses the use of ocular solutions containing at least one macrolide antibiotic for veterinary use. For example, lincosamides have been used in animals; an ocular solution containing a lincosamide may be used as a veterinary irrigation solution, volume replacement solution, topical wash or lubricant solution, etc.

10 The invention provides general purpose ocular solutions in the form of eye drops, eye washes, eye irrigating solutions, volume replacement solutions, contact lens solutions, etc. that contain one or more of the above macrolide antibiotics. In various embodiments, the ocular solution may be in single or multi-dose containers (e.g., 10 ml, 20 ml, 30 ml, 500 ml).

15 Other variations or embodiments of the invention will also be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from the above figures and descriptions. Thus, the forgoing embodiments are not to be construed as limiting the scope of this invention.

What is claimed is